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## Book Notes- Summer 2007

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## BOOK NOTES

*Nebraska 1875: Its Advantages, Resources, and Drawbacks.* By Edwin A. Curley. Introduction by Richard Edwards. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2006. [Originally published as *Nebraska: Its Advantages, Resources, and Drawbacks*. New York: American News Company, 1875.] xviii + 433 pp. Maps, illustrations, figures, tables, index. \$27.95 paper.

English journalist Edwin A. Curley published this guide to Nebraska for Europeans considering emigration. His comprehensive survey, encompassing climate, geography, geology, and land availability and prices, emphasized the rich possibilities the state had to offer. Richard Edwards provides an interpretive introduction to this Bison edition.

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*From Lead Mines to Gold Fields: Memories of an Incredibly Long Life.* By Henry Taylor. Edited and with an introduction by Donald L. Parman. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2006. xxv + 225 pp. Illustrations, map, notes, selected bibliography, index. \$24.95 paper.

Henry Taylor's long life (1825-1931) spanned the settling of the West. Having crossed the continent from Wisconsin's lead mines to the gold fields of California, Taylor eventually homesteaded in western Nebraska in 1878. Donald L. Parman organizes and annotates Taylor's autobiography, providing information on the people, places, and events in the text.

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*Sunshine Always: The Courtship Letters of Alice Bower and Joseph Gossage of Dakota Territory.* Edited by Paula M. Nelson. Compiled by Maxwell Van Nuys. Pierre: South Dakota State Historical Society Press, 2006. 293 pp. Map, photographs, notes, index. \$24.95.

This compilation of the correspondence between two young people—typesetter Alice Bower and *Rapid City Journal* founder Joseph Gossage—written during the 1880s from opposite ends of what was then the Dakota Territory offers insights into Victorian-era courtship, romance, the newspaper business, and eking out a living in the new territorial towns. Paula M. Nelson provides an introduction and epilogue for the letters and diary entries.

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*New Mexico Past and Future.* By Thomas E. Chávez. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2006. xv + 208 pp. Maps, illustrations, photographs, bibliography, index. \$17.95 paper.

Thomas Chávez's historical essay interprets New Mexico's human heritage from the period before Europeans arrived to the present day.

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*Marc Simmons of New Mexico: Maverick Historian.* By Phyllis S. Morgan. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2005. xx + 368 pp. Photographs, bibliography, index. \$39.95.

In addition to a brief biographical essay, Phyllis Morgan offers a sampling of Marc Simmons's work as well as a comprehensive bibliography of his published books and monographs.

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*A Song for the Horse Nation: Horses in Native American Cultures.* Edited by George Horse Capture and Emil Her Many Horses. Washington, DC: National Museum of the American Indian; Golden, CO: Fulcrum Publishing, 2006. 96 pp. Color illustrations. \$16.95 paper.

Celebrating the central role of horses in Native American culture, this slim volume includes

stories and songs collected nearly a century ago by Frances Densmore, along with poems by contemporary writers, and many colorful images of artifacts from the National Museum of the American Indian.

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*A Reader's Guide to the Novels of Louise Erdrich: Revised and Expanded Edition.* By Peter G. Beidler and Gay Barton. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2006. xiii + 435 pp. Map, charts, glossary, bibliography, index. \$54.95 cloth, \$24.95 paper.

In this completely updated edition of their original guide to Erdrich's work, the authors include information on four novels published since the first edition: *The Last Report on the Miracle of Little No Horse*, *The Master Butchers Singing Club*, *Four Souls*, and *The Painted Drum*. There are also genealogical charts for the various families, a map, detailed dictionary of characters, and a glossary of Ojibwe words and phrases Erdrich uses in her novels.

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*Ropes, Reins, and Rawhide: All About Rodeo.* By Melody Groves. Albuquerque: University

of New Mexico Press, 2006. x + 171 pp. Photographs, glossary, index. \$34.95.

Former barrel racer Melody Groves introduces readers to the inner workings of the sport of rodeo. She relates the importance of all participants, including announcers, pick up men, and clowns, and also the value and humane treatment of the rodeo animals. Groves also offers information about how to break into rodeo, the scoring of events, and the equipment and clothing required.

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*St. John's College: Faith and Education in Western Canada.* By J. M. Bumsted. Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, 2006. xi + 210 pp. Photographs. \$24.95 paper.

Historian J. M. Bumsted provides a look at the people and events that formed the history of St. John's College. Established primarily to provide theological training for Anglican clergy, it became one of the four founding colleges of the University of Manitoba. Bumsted gives an overview of the challenges facing the college from its founding in the 1850s through today.